- The National Guidelines on Infant and Young Child Feeding have been developed and disseminated all over the country.
- Implementation of the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation *of* Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 1992, also known as the Infant Milk Substitute (IMS) Act.

5. Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Targeted Public Distribution System, Antodaya Anna Yojana by the Department of Food and Consumer Affairs, etc.

6. Other measures include.
   - Improving agricultural and horticulture produce.
   - Improving the purchasing power of the people though various income generating scheme.

Malnourished women

3341. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that amongst India's hungry people, the number of women is very high;

(b) if so, whether Government have any data about malnourished women;

(c) the details of programmes Government runs for the poor working women, who are mostly victims of malnourishment and don't get proper diet and care during pregnancy; and

(d) how Government plans to tackle the problem of homeless ill-fed children and women in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) Nutrition status in adults is estimated by the Body Mass Index (BMI) which is based on height and weight measurements.

As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3), 35.6% of women (between 15-49 years) have BMI below 18.5 indicating chronic energy deficiency. State-wise prevalence is at Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is addressing the problem of undernutrition in children below six years and pregnant and lactating mothers through the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme in all States/UTs. The ICDS provides a package of six services namely supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up referral

services, pre-school non-formal education and nutrition and health education. Three of the services are provided through Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

To bridge the gap in Recommended Dietory Allowances (RDA) and the actual intake, the nutritional norms to be provided through Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) ICDS have been revised. Now 600 Kcal and 18-20g of protein are provided through supplementary nutrition to pregnant and lactating women.

To prevent anemia, iron and folic acid supplementation is also provided to pregnant and lactating women under RCH programme of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Besides the ICDS programme, Government is implementing a number of schemes throughout the country, which directly or indirectly improve the nutritional status of women and children. A list of schemes being implemented by various Ministries is at Statement-II (*See* below).

In addition, Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing various women empowerment schemes like Swadhar, Swayamsidha, STEP etc. which have components for skill upgradation, training for self employment and stay in Shelter Homes etc. leading to economic empowerment of poor and destitute women. This will result in increase in their purchasing power and consequent reduction of malnutrition in the long run.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is also implementing various child welfare and protection schemes to take adequate care of street children. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) set up in 2007 looks into the matters relating to children in distress, marginalized and disadvantaged children without family and children of prisoners and recommends appropriate remedial measures. A Child Helpline is also in operation to take care of complaints from children.

Statement-I

State-wise Percentage of Women age 15-49 below 145 cms, Mean Body Mass Index (BMI)

2005-06

Nutritional Status of Women by State

Sl. No.	State	BMI Below 18.5 in Kg/m square
1	2	3
I	**India**	35.6
	North	
	1. Delhi	14.8
	2. Haryana	31.3

1	2	3
	3. Himachal Pradesh	29.9
	4. Jammu and Kashmir	24.6
	5. Punjab	18.9
	6. Rajasthan	36.7
	7. Uttaranchal	30.0
II.	**Central**	
	8. Chhattisgarh	43.4
	9. Madhya Pradesh	41.7
	10. Uttar Pradesh	36.0
III.	**East**	
	11. Bihar	45.1
	12. Jharkhand	43.0
	13. Orissa	41.4
	14. West Bengal	39.1
IV.	**Northeast**	
	15. Arunachal Pradesh	16.4
	16. Assam	36.5
	17. Manipur	14.8
	18. Meghalaya	14.6
	19. Mizoram	14.4
	20. Nagaland	17.4
	21. Sikkim	11.2
	22. Tripura	36.9
V.	**West**	
	23. Goa	27.9
	24. Gujarat	36.3
	25. Maharashtra	36.2
IV.	**South**	
	26. Andhra Pradesh	33.5

1	2	3
	27. Karnataka	35.5
	28. Kerala	18.0
	29. Tamil Nadu	28.4

Statement-II

Schemes and Programmes to improve the nutritional Status of Women and Children:

(i) Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls in 51 districts to provide free food grains to undernourished adolescent girls by Ministry of Women and Child Development.

(ii) Kishori Shakti Yojana is implemented in 6118 blocks using ICDS platform.

(iii) To promote appropriate infant and young child feeding practices, the National Guidelines on Infant and Young Child Feeding have been developed and disseminated all over the country. Increased emphasis is given to:

a. Initiation of breastfeeding immediately after birth, preferably within one hour.

b. Exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months.

c. Implementing the Infant Milk Substitute (IMS) Act.

(iv) Nutrition and Health Education: Food and Nutrition Board of the Ministry of Women and Child Development is engaged in advocacy, trainings and generating awareness on important nutrition issues among different level of functionaries and the masses.

(v) National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid Day Meal Scheme) by the Department of School Education and Literacy;

(vi) Reproductive and Child Health Programme under the National Rural Health Mission being implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has schemes for prevention of micronutrient malnutrition as below:

- Iron and Folic acid supplementation for children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women.
- Vitamin-A supplementation for children upto 5 years.
- National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme.

(vii) Targeted Public Distribution System, Antodaya Anna Yojana and Annapurna Scheme by the Department of Food and Consumer Affairs.